

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2

From September 2014, every child in reception, year 1 and year 2 will be offered a free school meal. This could save you up to £380 a year for each child you have in Key Stage 1.

All Key Stage 1 pupils in Doncaster schools will be welcome to stay to lunch and enjoy an award winning, nutritious, hot meal with their friends at lunch time from September.

The change is part of a new Government initiative which aims to ensure that all children can benefit from a hot meal at lunchtime.

Studies show that the benefits include:

- a healthy diet
- improved concentration in the afternoons
- better behaviour and atmosphere in school as a result of all pupils (and an increasing numbers of teachers) eating together every day

Schools Catering already provide Food for Life Bronze award winning menus to over 58% of primary school children in Doncaster. This is the highest percentage take up in the area and compares very favourably to the national average of 43%.

View sample menus and other details about school meals online at: www.doncaster.gov.uk/schoolmeals

If your child has a medical need for a special diet, please contact the school for further details on how this can be supported.

We are asking all parents and guardians that have a statutory right to free school meals, because they are in receipt of one of the benefits listed below, to complete an application form on-line at www.doncaster.gov.uk before their child starts school.

This is because funding is granted to schools, based on the number of their pupils who are entitled to receive these free meals. For every pupil entitled to claim free school meals as a benefit, the school receives £1,300. This additional funding is called Pupil Premium. This money is used in a variety of creative and innovative ways to help support individual pupils and the whole school community. The allocation of this funding is at the school's discretion but it is used to help identified pupils to maintain academic progression and attainment.



The school receives extra money for:

- children eligible for free school meals currently or during the past six years
- children with parents currently serving in the armed forces
- children in care and adopted children

It is really important that if your child has been eligible for free school meals (however briefly) during the last six years, then you should claim.

Children may be eligible if their parents/carers are receiving.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit but **not** Working Tax Credit and your annual income is below £16,190 (as worked out by HM Revenues and Customs)
- Pension Credit Guarantee
- Support under part 6 of the Asylum Seekers Act



It is also important that if you have an older child in school (key stage 2 and above) that you continue to apply for free school meal benefit if you qualify.

Even if you don't want your child to receive a free meal, we would encourage you to register for free school meals so that their school receives as much funding as possible. You may be entitled to other benefits for your child, for example, free school milk for children under seven, or help towards board and lodging charges for school trips.

For more information on how your school allocates Pupil Premium funding, please see the school website or contact the Headteacher. Alternatively, for more guidance on the Pupil Premium, visit www.gov.uk

